

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod that ~~has excellent wire drawability as it is hot-rolled and thus allows heat treatment prior to wire drawing to be omitted~~:

~~said hot-rolled wire rod being a hot-rolled wire rod 5.0 mm or more in diameter, containing comprising (in mass%):~~

C: 0.6 to 1.0%,

Si: 0.1 to 1.5%,

Mn: 0.3 to 1.0%,

P: 0.02% or less, and

S: 0.02% or less;

wherein said hot-rolled wire rod is

5.0 mm or more in diameter;

not less than 90% of said wire rod in area percentage being composed of comprises a pearlite structure; and

the mechanical properties of said wire rod 4 m in length satisfying satisfy the following expressions (1) to (4)[[],[]]:

(1) $TS^*-30 \leq \text{Average value of tensile strength (} TS_{AV} \text{ in MPa) } \leq TS^*+30$,

where, $TS^* = 400x \{[C]+([Mn]+[Si])/5\}+670$ and the elements in square brackets [] in the equality equation mean the contents of relevant elements in percentage,

(2) Standard deviation of tensile strength ($TS\sigma$) ≤ 30 MPa,

(3) Average value of reduction of area (RA_{AV}) $> 35\%$,

(4) Standard deviation of reduction of area ($RA\sigma$) $\leq 4\%$.

Claim 2 (Original): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of nodules in said pearlite structure is $10 \mu\text{m}$ or less.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further containing comprising:

Cr: 0.3% or less (excluding zero) and/or

Ni: 0.3% or less (excluding zero).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further ~~containing~~ comprising at least one element selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of Nb, V, Ti, Hf and Zr by 0.1% or less (excluding zero) in total.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ said wire rod further comprising N [[is]] controlled to 0.01% or less.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ said wire rod further comprising Al and Mg [[are]] controlled to 0.05% or less and 0.01% or less, respectively.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further ~~containing~~ comprising

B: 0.001 to 0.005%.